



CAREER and TECHNICAL EDUCATION UPDATE January 1, 2016

2015-2016 CALENDARS Posted on the Secondary CTE Web page

The **CTE Calendar of Events** and the **CTE DUE DATES and DEADLINES** calendars have been posted to the Secondary CTE web page located at this link: http://opi.mt.gov/programs/CTAE/CTE.html#gpm1_5 Please feel free to print and post both of these important calendars for your reference throughout the year. For questions about either calendar, please contact Christy Hendricks at 406.444.9019 or email her at: chendricks@mt.gov.

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) passes

Every Student Succeeds replaces the failed *No Child Left Behind Act* that judged the effectiveness of schools and success of children on one test score. The new law places a stronger emphasis on child wellbeing, and recognizes that one high-stakes test isn't a reasonable way to measure student performance.

Over the next 18 months, the Office of Public Instruction will work with education leaders across Montana to develop an accountability plan that focuses on measuring student and school success across a broad spectrum of indicators.

2014-2015 Smarter Balanced test results posted

The results are in for Montana's new Common Core education assessment, Smarter Balanced. In the schools that were tested, 38 percent of students scored proficient in math and 45 percent scored proficient in English. Due to the technical troubles, the Testing time is being cut this year. Superintendent Juneau announced that high school juniors will no longer be required to take the annual Smarter Balanced assessment, and instead will take the ACT. Juneau also stated that testing time will shorten in all other grades because officials have decided to cut a Smarter Balanced classroom activity. Montana's 2016 Smarter Balanced testing begins at the end of March.

The test results are under the toolkit using the following link:
http://opi.mt.gov/curriculum/MontCAS/Index.html?gpm=1_4

Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources

No update at this time.

Submitted by

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FFA



The FFA's annual John Deere Ag Expo was recently held on the campus of Montana State University. Over 1,300 members and guests turned the town National Blue for the weekend. Students attending were able to participate in nineteen competitive event areas. Students were also encouraged to develop their leadership skills by attending the Montana Leadership Conference (MLC) designed for younger members or the Premier Leadership Conference (PLC) designed for Montana's older FFA members. Both of these leadership opportunities were held in conjunction with the expo and were conducted by past state FFA officers. In addition, students participated in campus tours, banquets, and social events. Teachers were not left out of the expo activities as workshops were offered in the areas of global positioning systems and managing career pathways. Thanks goes out to all the sponsors, volunteers, advisors, parents, and members who made the John Deere Ag Expo a success.

The FFA chapters from Belgrade and Missoula got the new-year off to a great start by winning the state floriculture and food science contests respectively. These competitions were held in Glendive at Dawson Community College. The next state competitions will be held in Great Falls on Jan. 22nd and 23rd.

The State FFA Officers will be on the move and will attempt to visit every Montana chapter during the months of December and January. The state officers are excited to see how Montana FFA is staying "United by Blue" in their own chapter, community, and state. Best wishes for a great holiday season!!!!!!

FFA information submitted by Montana FFA State Director, Jim Rose, phone: (406) 994-7050; Email: jrose@metnet.mt.gov.

Business Education

Montana Business Education Students & Business Educators Participate in 2015 Hour of Code

From East (Wibaux) to West (Noxon) and North (Turner) to South (Lima), Montana's business education students and business educators all across the state took part in the Hour of Code (hourofcode.com/us) project as part of Computer Science Week held December 7-11, 2015.

The Hour of Code is a global movement reaching tens of millions of students in 180+ countries. Anyone—ages 4 to 104—anywhere—tutorials are available in over 30 languages—can participate in an Hour of Code event. Hour of Code is designed to be an opportunity for every student to try computer science for one hour.

During the week, Montana's business education students and teachers were part of the global event which saw over 15 million students worldwide learn computer coding and programming within the five-day period.

Almost all of Montana's secondary business education programs are currently teaching computer science-related curricula including coding, programming, web design, computer animation, network administration, robotics, and software engineering.

The Hour of Code is a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify code and show that anybody can learn the basics. The Hour of Code is organized by Code.org, a public 501c3 non-profit dedicated to expanding participation in computer science by making it available in more schools, and increasing participation by women and underrepresented students of color. An have come together to support the Hour of Code, too — including Microsoft, Apple, Amazon, Boys and Girls Clubs of America and the College Board.



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Montana Business Professionals of America— **December 2015 Update**

Wishing you all a joyous holiday season from Montana BPA.

REGIONAL QUALIFIER NUMBERS—with registration winding up for 2015-2016 the membership numbers for BPA are as follows:

Region 1 - Northwest Montana--102 members
Region 2 - Western Montana—65 members
Region 3 - North Central Montana--295 members
Region 4 - Southwest Montana--183 members
Region 5 - South Central Montana—139 members
Region 6 - Yellowstone & Musselshell Co.--328 members
Region 7 - Southeast Montana--164 members
Region 8 - Northeast Montana--231 members
Currently we have 1507 BPA members at the secondary level

Upcoming regional competition dates are set: December 7--Region 7; December 16--Region 4; December 21-22--Region 6; January 11—Region 1; January 12—Region 5; January 6 or 13—Region 2; January 18—Region 3 and January 20—Region 8. All students are hoping to earn a spot to compete at the state conference held in Billings on March 13-15, 2016.

Like us on Facebook-  **Business Professionals of America-Montana Association**

Follow us on Instagram  **BPAMT**

Tweet us on Twitter  **@Montana BPA**

Submitted by

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Montana DECA



As preparations for the State Career Development Conference are in full swing, Montana DECA is pleased to announce several new and innovative statewide programs that will be implemented at the State Career Development Conference:

- **Administrators Day:** Montana DECA has announced the hosting of an Administrators Professional Development Day focusing on the importance and impact of Montana CTSO's. In addition to receiving professional CEU credits for their participation, attendees will hear from professional presenters including: Governor Steve Bullock, State Superintendent Denise Juneau, DECA Inc. Director of Education Michelle Walker, and many more. For more details, or to register for this new and exciting opportunity, please visit www.mtdeca.com/adminday. The Administrators Day is open to any and all high school administrators, teachers and superintendents.
- **Empower Learning Labs:** For the first time in history, Montana DECA members will have the opportunity to experience empowered learning labs designed to prepare them for college and careers. Hosted by the Great Falls and Missoula Job Service, the Empower Learning Labs will focus on how to dress for success, prepare a resume, interview skills, searching for careers, organization culture techniques, and negotiation skills. For more information on the Empower Learning Labs, please visit www.mtdeca.com/stateconference.

Montana DECA is excited to celebrate their 65th State Career Development Conference February 7-9, 2016 in Great Falls, Montana. To take part in the celebration, compete, judge, or volunteer, please visit www.mtdeca.com/judging.

Submitted by John Stiles, DECA State Director.



Family and Consumer Sciences & Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America Update

December 3, 2015 was the second annual national Family & Consumer Sciences (FCS) Day with the theme of "Dining In" for Healthy Families. 125,000 people committed to "Dining In" across the United States including Montana participation in Anaconda, Arlee, Bozeman, Columbus, Ekalaka, Hardin, Harlowton, Kalispell, Lewistown, Malta, Missoula, Plentywood, and Three Forks. December 3 was chosen as Family & Consumer Sciences Day to honor family and consumer sciences pioneer and AAFCS founder Ellen Swallow Richards.

As a part of Montana FCCLA's ongoing commitment to preparing youth to be College and Career Ready several new opportunities were established this month.

The Montana FCCLA Partner program encourages individuals, business and industry and higher education institutions to partner with Montana FCCLA in a variety of ways:

- College and Career Ready Fair – an opportunity to exhibit and conduct workshops at the Montana FCCLA State Leadership Conference March 20-22, 2016.



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- STAR Competitive Events Partner – the opportunity for organizations to sponsor a competitive event, serve as an expert evaluator and share career opportunities with students who have already expressed an interest in a topic area.
- State Leadership Conference or Leadership Rally – the opportunity for organizations to be a sponsor at Montana FCCLA's multiple leadership trainings for youth.

In addition, Montana FCCLA has partnered with Montana State University to offer scholarships to students interested in pursuing a degree in Family and Consumer Sciences Education, Human Development and Family Studies, Early Childhood Education, Foods and Nutrition and Sustainable Food Systems. These scholarships fulfil Montana FCCLA and Montana State Universities joint goal of recruiting and retaining quality students interested in enriching the well being of individuals and communities.

Respectfully submitted,
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Health Sciences Education

Health Science Update

Health Science Mid-year thoughts-

"The talent of success is nothing more than doing what you can do well, and doing well whatever you can do."
-Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

This is one of the quotes that adorn my desk and I believe this describes the teachers, administrators and staff I work with every day.

I have been the education specialist for health science programs for almost ten years, and I have enjoyed learning alongside the finest educators and thinkers in our state.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer a heartfelt thank you to all of the health science teachers and HOSA advisors for your passion and dedication to your students.

To your health into the New Year and beyond,
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Submitted by



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National affiliation (“membership”) is the mantra with which we besiege our chapter advisors. As of 12/21/15, membership had bypassed 400. Registration for State Leadership Conference (SLC) will open mid-January. Our Montana HOSA members will take online tests prior to attending State; scores will be averaged with their performances in skills events.

State Officer applications will be available Jan. 15 and are due the first week of February, 2016.

Montana HOSA, in partnership with Montana Area Health Education Centers (AHECs), assists chapters by providing use of the curriculum “In-A-Box” library. Library consists of 6 boxes: Eye, Ear, Bones & Muscles, Guts, Brain, and most recently, Heart (the main office, in Bozeman, also has Mouth In-A-Box). Presentation of trunk health science lessons, to middle school classrooms, earn chapters stipends to use for transportation to SLC.

Below, Capital High School HOSA teaches at CR Anderson Elementary.



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Industrial, Trades and Technology Education

U.S. Department of Education Invites Teachers to Be Leaders

The U.S. Department of Education's Teach to Lead program will host a Teacher Leadership Summit in Baltimore on Feb. 13-14. At the summit, educators from around the nation will collaborate and develop plans for putting teacher leadership ideas into action. The hope is to attract the best teacher leadership ideas from exceptional educators across the nation.

All educators are welcome to apply as individuals and may bring a team of up to five stakeholders (teachers, principals, administrators or school board members) with them. At least one member of each team must be a practicing classroom educator. The purpose of the conference is not to make or hear presentations, but to engage in generating ideas and creating detailed plans around a concept you have to improve teaching in your school, district or state. This conference is not specific to career and technical education, but CTE can be the focus of your idea.

Summit participants are asked to have an actionable teacher leadership idea, pay for their own travel, be a practicing classroom educator (one person per team) and commit to implementation steps for their idea following the summit. The summit begins with a reception on Friday, Feb. 12, and concludes at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 14.

For more information about Teach to Lead, to see sample action plans from previous conferences, or to submit an application to participate in the Teacher Leadership Summit in February, go to: www.teachtolead.org.

SAFETY

Recently there has been a national push for improving SAFETY awareness in schools, home, and the workplace. It is a well-accepted belief that SAFETY practices should be emphasized more strongly in the CTE environment, so students will become part of the Safety Culture, with the result being a safer home and a safer worker when entering the workforce.

Every year hundreds of residential fires are traced back to a malfunctioning clothes dryer. The following tips should be shared with your colleagues and students:

CLOTHES DRYER SAFETY

Ignoring regular dryer maintenance can impact the dryers efficiency — and pose a fire hazard. If you spot any of these telltale signs, your clothes dryer needs some extra attention:

- (1) Dryer runs much longer than it needs to.
- (2) Clothes removed from the dryer after one cycle are still wet or damp.
- (3) Dryer moves or shakes as it operates.

Clothes Dryer Maintenance: Follow these easy steps can add years to your dryer's life. Clean the lint screen before or after every load. Carefully remove the lint screen and clean its housing cavity with a dryer lint brush or the crevice attachment on your vacuum cleaner. Inspect and clean the vent system, especially if you notice a decrease in dryer performance. Lint build-up is also a contributing factor in home fires. Cleaning the entire vent system could be necessary as often as twice a year.

Wipe down your dryer's interior. Even if there are no stains or residue inside your dryer, it's best to clean the interior monthly. Unplug the appliance, then clean the drum with a rag dipped in warm, soapy water. Vacuum behind and underneath the dryer. Moisture, dirt, and lint can accumulate quickly. Clean around the dryer as often as necessary, but a thorough cleaning should be scheduled on regular increments. Check the balance of your dryer. If the dryer is not level, the rotating components will wear out sooner. If the dryer moves or shakes when in use, adjust the feet located at the bottom of each corner of the unit. The use of a carpenter's level can also aid in the process.

Submitted by

Don Michalsky



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SkillsUSA

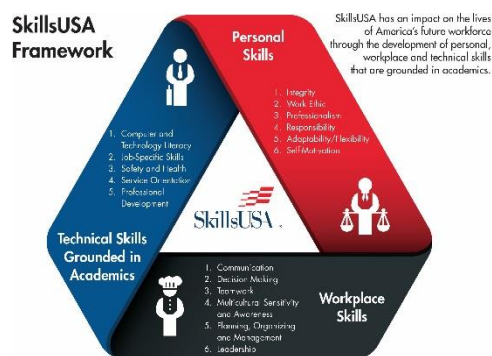


SkillsUSA Framework is Providing a Solution to Employer's Needs

According to a *CareerBuilder* survey, 77 percent of employers consider soft skills just as important as hard skills when it comes to evaluating candidates for a job, and 16 percent say soft skills are more important. Soft technical skills remain a sought-after trait and a recognized business differentiator among employers.

According to a survey of more than 2,000 hiring managers nationwide, the top 10 most-popular soft skills they look for when hiring include:

- Strong work ethic
- Dependability
- Positive attitude
- Self-motivation
- Team-oriented attitude
- Organization; ability to manage multiple priorities
- Ability to work well under pressure
- Effective communication skills
- Flexibility
- Confidence



SkillsUSA is prepared to meet these needs through the implementation of the SkillsUSA Framework, which empowers every student to achieve career success, delivers a skill set demanded by business and industry and ensures that every student member receives a consistent and specific skill set.

For details on the survey, go to: thehiringsite.careerbuilder.com/2014/04/10/skilling-softly-evaluate-candidates-soft-skills/ and on the framework: www.skillsusa.org/about/skillsusa-framework/

SkillsUSA information submitted by Montana SkillsUSA State Director, Cassie Huntley, cell phone: (406) 461-5016; Email: chuntley@skillsusamontana.org



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Montana TSA



Montana Technology Student Association celebrating our 25th Anniversary!!!

How time flies it doesn't seem like the school year is just about half over.

We have all of the state events on the MontanaTSA.com web site. We have finalized all prep for the upcoming TSA Leadership Conference in Billings. We are still looking for added sponsorships for our conference.

TSA Reporter Chandler Pippin has produced a how to video on the use of Google Hangouts. We have placed this video on the MontanaTSA Facebook page. Three schools, Harlem, Saco, Whitewater, have used the software to hold state officer meetings with great success.

The state officers are preparing the meetings with the local chapter officers to provide them training on Track-it Forward service hours reporting by using Google Hangouts.

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